

Fort Des Moines Historic Complex,  
Building 127  
(Quartermaster Stable)  
Des Moines  
Polk County  
Iowa

HABS No. IA-121-Z

HABS  
IOWA,  
77-DESMO,  
24-Z-

## PHOTOGRAPHS

## WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Rocky Mountain Regional Office  
Department of the Interior  
P.O. Box 25287  
Denver, Colorado 80225

HABS No. IA-121-Z

HABS  
IOWA,  
77-DESMO,  
24-Z-

Building No. 127. Quartermaster Stable

This structure followed plan 139Q in the Quartermaster General's Office. It cost \$15,667.00 to erect and was completed on November 19, 1910, with brick walls, limestone and concrete water table foundation, and a slate gabled roof. The brick was joined in common bond and, unlike that of most of the other buildings, the mortar was not pigmented with red. The roof rafters had decorative tails.

A monitor with alternately spaced paired 9-light windows and paired louvered ventilators ran the length of the roof ridge. The building could accommodate seventy-eight animals, measured 67 feet wide by 153 feet long, and stood northwest of Building No. 126 aligned on an east-west orientation. The west end of the stable contained two double sliding doors each measuring 8 feet 6 inches wide by 11 feet high. The east end contained two more double doors, plus four 6-over-6-light double hung windows, two between the doors and one on the corner side of each door. Above the two center windows was a double door opening into the attic loft and on the gable was a cathead. The north and south sides each contained twelve fixed 6-light windows plus two 6-over-6 light double hung windows, besides another double door. All lower level windows had 2-course segmental arches and limestone lug sills; all entrances had 3-course segmental arches. The loft entrance had a plain lug sill.

The floors of Building No. 127 were of concrete, brick, and clay. Interior space consisted of 9,815 square feet, arranged as follows:

First floor:

Officers' saddle room, 9' 8" x 10' 5"  
Store room, 9' 8" x 9' 3"  
Dispensary, 9' 8" x 10' 5"  
Store room, 9' 8" x 9' 3"  
Saddle and harness room, 19' 8" x 40' 7"

6 box stalls, 9' 11" x 10'  
68 stalls, 9' 11" x 5'  
4 stalls, 9' 11" x 5' 8"  
2 driveways, 12' x 150' 10"  
Driveways, 19' 8" x 9' 8"  
Driveway, 19' 8" x 10'

Attic:

Hay loft, approximately 45' x 50' 8"  
Granary, dimensions unknown

The building had electric lighting and water line connections. Repairs completed on the stable between 1910 and 1922 amounted to an average expenditure of \$50.12 per year, although costs were minimal until 1921, when apparently the building was altered to include the conversion of four single sash windows into double hung ones and the addition of five double hung windows a door, and a garage door on the south side, plus the addition of three double hung windows on the north side. On the east side, one of the double doors was altered for a garage door. This entrance had stone bumpers at the base. During the 1930s a lavatory and urinal were installed, along with a radiator boiler and two unit heaters. In 1935 a large gasoline tank was placed underground, signaling the conversion of the structures to a garage for thirty vehicles. By 1941 the former stable was being used for utility shops. A large exterior chimney was built at the north corner of the west end. By 1987 the chimney had collapsed and the adjacent corner was deteriorating. The monitor appeared to be in its original condition. Vacant at that time, the building was in poor to fair condition.(40)

---

40. Card for Building No. 127. "Historical Record of Buildings." NA, RG 77, Box No. 51; Plan, "Stable for 78 Horses," No. 139Q, February, 1910. 4 sheets. NA, RG 92. Blueprint file, Fort Des Moines, Iowa; Field survey notes, February 20-22, 1987.